

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Claims 1-56 (Cancelled)**

57. (New) An image coding method comprising:

dividing an input image signal corresponding to an image into image signals corresponding to individual local regions of the image;

deciding a filter characteristic for each local region of the input image signal on the basis of image feature data of each local region;

performing adaptive filtering; and

coding the input image signal for each local region.

58. (New) An image coding method comprising:

dividing an input image signal corresponding to an image into image signals corresponding to individual local regions of the image;

deciding a filter characteristic for each local region of the input image signal on the basis of the frequency distribution of image feature data of each local region over a predetermined period;

performing adaptive filtering; and

coding the image signal for each local region on the basis of the decided filter characteristic.